

Notes on Siamese races of *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*.—Messrs. Delacour and Greenway have recently published (*L'Oiseau et la Revue Française d'Ornithologie*, n. s., 10: 63–66 and map, 1940) a review of the distribution in French Indo-China of the subspecies of *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*, the Yellow-billed Scimitar-babbler.

In default of material from that area I am unable to pass judgment on the views there set forth, but believe that it may be of interest to add to their discussion certain opinions on the races occurring in Siam, developed after comparison of the excellent series in the U. S. National Museum with types or topotypes of all the pertinent forms at the British Museum in 1939. Inasmuch as, since 1928, the birds of Doi Suthep alone have been reported by various authors as *olivaceus*, *ripponi*, and *nuchalis*, it is evident that examination of types was in order. *Pomatorhinus s. klossi*, a highly saturate race restricted to the humid lowlands of southeastern Siam, and *humilis*, known in Thailand only from Nan province on the borders of Middle Laos, need merely be mentioned, since neither comes into contact, nor shows intergradation, with any more western form.

The races found in the hilly districts of western Siam are decidedly unstable but, with good series, may be separated by application of the 75% rule. At Kanburi, southwestern Thailand, occur individuals which cannot be distinguished from types or topotypes of *olivaceus*, *siamensis*, and *fastidiosus*! The last is probably recognizable in having an increased tendency to develop a blackish edging above the white supercilium. *P. s. siamensis* (1917) is a pure synonym of *olivaceus* (1847), which, within our borders, ranges from the Isthmus of Kra north as far as Raheng, beyond which it intergrades with *ripponi*.

P. s. ripponi (with type specimens from Pyaunggaung, Northern Shan States) is not certainly separable from *olivaceus* by color but may be distinguished by its lesser dimensions, especially its lighter, shorter bill. From *nuchalis* it may be known by its having the sides of the body olivaceous or pale rufous, whereas *nuchalis* has the rich chestnut of the sides of the neck continued unchanged to the lower flanks. *P. s. ripponi* reaches its eastern limit on the hills of the Khun Tan chain, whence eight out of nine birds agree perfectly with specimens from the Shan States. Westward, on the mountains of the Thanon Thong Chai range and in Me Hong Son province, are birds which are somewhat intermediate between *ripponi* and *nuchalis* in having the sides of the body more richly colored, but which are still nearer *ripponi*. Not until the Salwin is crossed do we find examples which are definitely more *nuchalis* than *ripponi*.

The type locality of *nuchalis* is not Thayetmyo, as alleged by authors, but "Karen hills," *vide* Wardlaw Ramsay, collector of the original series (*Ornithological Works of Arthur, Ninth Marquis of Tweeddale*, 1881, p. 669). To judge by the ample material in London, the name may properly be used *only* for the deeply colored population of the Sittang-Salwin watershed, which, northward and eastward, fades into *ripponi*, southward into *olivaceus*. An occasional Siamese specimen of *ripponi* has many of the breast-feathers with small rufous tips but this must be considered an individual variation without racial significance.—H. G. DEIGNAN, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

New name for *Stachyris leucotis goodsoni*.—I propose the new name *Stachyris leucotis obscurata*, for *Stachyris l. goodsoni* Hartert (*Bull. British Ornith. Club*, 36: 7, 1915—Borneo), since it is preoccupied by the earlier *Stachyridopsis* (= *Stachyris*) *ruficeps goodsoni* Rothschild (*Bull. British Ornith. Club*, 14: 8, 1903—Hainan). *Stachyris leucotis obscurata* differs from typical *leucotis* (Malay Peninsula) by the